

Appl. No. 09/944,652
Amtd. Dated 10/23/2006
Reply to Office action of 07/21/2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A client terminal connectable to a video distribution system and a display device, the video distribution system provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program listings and provides program rating data that is associated with rating sources, the client terminal comprising:

a video distribution system interface to receive the program guide information and the program rating data;
a display interface to display the program guide on the display device;
a user interface to receive user input;
a local memory to store a ranking program; and
a terminal controller responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for:
a. allowing the user to select a critic profile based upon a critic rating source from a list of rating sources a plurality of different critic profiles including a plurality of different critic rating sources displayed on the display device via user input;
b. generating the critic profile based upon past program rating data associated with the critic rating source by utilizing a preference engine to rate at least one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic rating source;
c. ranking and ordering program listings based upon program rating data associated with the selected critic profile rating source; and
d. displaying the ranked and ordered program listings in the program guide on the display device.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the preference engine further creates a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns.

7. (Currently Amended) The client terminal of claim 6, wherein, if the rating source selected is the user profile, wherein the terminal controller is further responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for allowing the user to select a user profile and applying the terminal controller responsive to the ranking program applies the user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

8. (Original) The client terminal of claim 6, wherein, the preference engine creates an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns.

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9. (Currently Amended) The client terminal of claim 8, ~~wherein if the rating source selected is the aggregated user profile, wherein the terminal controller is further responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for allowing the user to select an aggregated user profile and applying the terminal controller responsive to the ranking program applies the aggregated user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.~~

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The client terminal of claim 6 1, wherein, the preference engine creates a virtual critic profile based upon program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating source sources, respectively.

13. (Currently Amended) The client terminal of claim 12, ~~wherein if the program rating source selected is a virtual critic profile, wherein the terminal controller is further responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for allowing the user to select a virtual critic profile and applying the terminal controller responsive to the ranking program applies the virtual critic profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the virtual critic profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.~~

14. (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied in a computer readable storage medium for use in a client terminal connectable to a video distribution system and a display device, the video distribution system provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program listings and provides program rating data that is associated with rating sources, the computer program comprising code segments for:

- a. allowing the user to select a critic profile based upon a critic rating source from a list of rating sources a plurality of different critic profiles including a plurality of different critic rating sources displayed on the display device via user input;
- b. generating the critic profile based upon past program rating data associated with the critic rating source by utilizing a preference engine to rate at least one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic rating source;
- c. ranking and ordering program listings based upon program rating data associated with the selected critic profile rating source; and
- d. displaying the ranked and ordered program listings in the program guide on the display device.

20-23. (Canceled)

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24. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 23 19, wherein, the preference engine creates a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 24, further comprising code segments for:

- a. allowing the user to select the user profile ~~as a rating source~~;
- b. applying the user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the user profile;
- c. ranking the program listings; and
- d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 23 19, wherein, the preference engine creates an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 26, further comprising code segments for:

- a. allowing the user to select the aggregated user profile ~~as a rating source~~;
- b. applying the aggregated user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile;
- c. ranking the program listings; and
- d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

28-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 23 19, wherein, the preference engine creates a virtual critic profile based upon program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating sources, respectively.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising code segments for:

- a. allowing the user to select the virtual critic profile ~~as a rating source~~;
- b. applying the virtual critic profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the virtual critic profile;
- c. ranking the program listings; and
- d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

32. (Original) The computer program of claim 19, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

33-36. (Cancelled)

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37. (Currently Amended) A method for presenting ranked program listings in a program guide based upon a selected rating source, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. allowing the user to select a critic profile based upon a critic rating source from a list of rating sources; a plurality of different critic profiles including a plurality of different critic rating sources displayed on the display device via user input;
 - b. generating the critic profile based upon past program rating data associated with the critic rating source by utilizing a preference engine to rate at least one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic rating source;
 - c. ranking and ordering program listings based upon program rating data associated with the selected critic profile rating source; and
 - d. displaying the ranked and ordered program listings in the program guide on the display device.

38-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of creating a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns utilizing the preference engine.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

- a. allowing the user to select the user profile as a rating source;
- b. applying the user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the user profile;
- c. ranking the program listings; and
- d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of creating an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns utilizing the preference engine.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, further comprising the steps of:

- a. allowing the user to select the aggregated user profile as a rating source;
- b. applying the aggregated user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile;
- c. ranking the program listings; and
- d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

45-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of creating a virtual critic profile based upon a plurality critics' preferences derived from program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating sources, respectively, utilizing the preference engine.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:

- a. allowing the user to select the virtual critic profile as a rating source;

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- b. applying the virtual critic profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the virtual critic profile;
- c. ranking the program listings; and
- d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

49. (Currently Amended) A video distribution system connectable to a client terminal that is in turn connected to a display device, the video distribution system provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program listings displayable on the display device and a list of a plurality of different critic profiles based upon a plurality of critic rating sources, respectively, rating sources also displayable on the display device, the video distribution system comprising:

a video distribution system controller;
memory to store a ranking program and rating sources; and
a preference engine to generate a critic profile based upon past program rating data associated with a critic rating source, the preference engine rating at least one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic rating source;
wherein, in response to user input selecting the critic profile a critic rating source from the list of rating sources different critic profiles including a plurality of different critic rating sources received from the client terminal, the video distribution system controller responsive to the ranking program:

- a. ranks and orders program listings based upon program rating data associated with the selected critic profile rating source; and
- b. commands the client terminal to display the ranked and ordered program listings in the program guide on the display device.

50-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The video distribution system of claim 53-49, wherein, the preference engine further creates a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns.

55. (Currently Amended) The video distribution system of claim 54, wherein, in response to user input selecting a if the rating source selected is the user profile, the video distribution system controller responsive to the ranking program applies the user profile to the program guide information to create program rating data associated with the user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

56. (Currently Amended) The video distribution system of claim 53-49, wherein, the preference engine further creates an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns.

57. (Currently Amended) The video distribution system of claim 56, wherein, in response to user input selecting an if the rating source selected is the aggregated user profile, the video distribution system controller responsive to the ranking program applies the aggregated user profile to the program guide information to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

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58-59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) The video distribution system of claim 49, wherein, the preference engine further creates a virtual critic profile based upon program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating source sources, respectively.

61. (Currently Amended) The video distribution system of claim 60, wherein, in response to user input selecting if the program rating source selected is a virtual critic profile, the video distribution system controller responsive to the ranking program applies the virtual critic profile to the program guide information to create program rating data associated with the virtual critic profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.